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RURAL DISTRICT OF DROXFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

OF THE

Rural District of Droxford

For the Year ended 31st December, 1937.

EASTLEIGH PRINTING WORKS, T.U. PRINTERS, EASTLEIGH.

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RURAL DISTRICT OF DROXFORD IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

DROXFORD.

May, 1938.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances, the Sanitary Administration, and the Vital Statistics of the District for the year ended December 31st, 1937, namely :—

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	62,772
Registrar General's estimate of resident population for 1937	18,050
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	5,081
Rateable Value	£100,553
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£406 19s. 7d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is residential and agricultural, a considerable portion being laid out in estates (some of which are being split up) and residential properties.

Farming, small-holdings, poultry farming, and extensive fruit growing, together with the various occupations incidental to agriculture, constitute the principal means of livelihood of the population.

There are a few brickyards in parts of the District, where the suitable clay predominates.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	*M.*	*F.*		
		242	120	122	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	13.8
Live Births	Legitimate	230	114	116		
	Illegitimate	12	6	6		
		Total.	*M.*	*F.*		
		9	2	7	Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	35.8
Still-Births	Legitimate	9	2	7		
	Illegitimate	–	–	–		
Deaths		188	94	94	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	10.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).

	Deaths.	*Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.*
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	None.	None.
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes	None.	None.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	49.58
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	43.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	166.6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	None.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	None.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	None.

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

(*a*). *Medical—*

Medical Officer of Health, part time. Salary Contribution under Public Health Acts, M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Droxford Poor Law Institution and District Medical Officer for Droxford, Swanmore, Shedfield and Soberton Parishes and Public Vaccinator for the same Parishes.

District Medical Officer, M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P., for West Meon, Warnford, Exton, Corhampton and Meonstoke Parishes and Public Vaccinator for the same Parishes. Part time.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator, M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. for Denmead and Hambledon Parishes. Part time.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator, M.R.C.S., and L.S.A. for Bishop's Waltham, Upham, Durley, Curdridge and Curbridge Parishes. Part time.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator, M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P., for Wickham, Boarhunt, Southwick and Widley Parishes. Part time.

(*b*) *Sanitary Inspector.*—Whole time. Salary contribution under the Public Health Acts, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Superintendent of Bishop's Waltham, Shedfield and Wickham Scavenging, Building Surveyor and Town Planning Officer, Inspector of Cowsheds and Dairies, Inspector of Factories and Workshops, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and other appointments as per requirements of Ministry's Circular.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A. Whole time.

Clerical and General Assistant. Whole time.

(2). *Nursing in the Home, Nature of Arrangements in the Area.*

(*a*) *General.*—Practically all the Villages in the District have the services of a Parish Nurse, some of the Nurses serving two or three villages.

(*b*) *For Infectious Diseases, Measles, etc.*—Infectious disease cases are generally nursed by their parents as the Parish Nurse has to do the Midwifery. Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever are sent to Isolation Hospitals.

(3). *Mid-wives.*—There is no employment of or subsidy to, practising mid-wives by the Local Authority. There are a few mid-wives practising in the District, but most of the midwifery is done by the Parish Nurses.

(4). *Maternal Mortality.*—There were two deaths from other puerperal diseases. No deaths from puerperal sepsis.

(5). *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological aids to diagnosis are used when necessary, the specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Winchester who carry out the examination, free of cost, outfits being supplied free. The report is sent direct to the Medical man sending the specimen (and if positive, at the same time, a copy of the report is sent to me) and a similar outfit is returned with the report. Swabs of Diphtheria Contacts are taken and sent for examination, samples of milk were taken and sent to the County Laboratory for examination for Tubercle.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—Is carried out by the County Analyst under the County Council.

(6) *Legislation in Force—Bye-Laws.*—Building Bye-Laws new issue, 1935. Tents, Vans and Sheds. 1935.
Portsmouth and District Town Planning Scheme.

(7). *Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council* :—

A. (1) *Fever.*—The Local Authority has entered into agreements with the Alton Joint Hospital Committee and the Fareham Urban District Council to send cases of Infectious Diseases to the Isolation Hospitals under their control and with few exceptions all such cases are sent to these Institutions.

(2) *Smallpox.*—The County Council has taken over some of the existing Smallpox Hospitals in the County for the reception of any cases of Smallpox occurring in the several Districts in the County.

B. (1) *Tuberculosis.*—Provided by the County Council.

(2) *Maternity.*—There is a Maternity Ward at the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, where bad cases can be sent, the patients pay the fee when able.
The Maternity Ward at the Droxford Poor Law Institution is only used in cases of emergency, the cases being sent to Gosport, Havant or Winchester.
There is a Maternity Ward at Shedfield Nursing Home.

(3) *Children.*—Are sent to Portsmouth, Winchester, Southampton Hospitals and there is a Nursing Home at Shedfield, where children are admitted.

(4) *Others.*—The Hospitals available for the District are Winchester, Portsmouth and Southampton Hospitals. All situated outside the District. The accommodation is ample to meet the needs of the District, admission being obtained by letters from their doctor, and there are Contributory Insurance Schemes in connection with the above Hospitals.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT.

A few unmarried mothers are provided for at Gosport, Havant, or Winchester (outside the District). The Maternity Ward at the Droxford Poor Law Institution is only used for cases of emergency.

Some illegitimate infants are provided for at the Droxford Poor Law Institution.

Homeless children are admitted to the Droxford Poor Law Institution and if of school age, are sent to Children's Homes.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(*a*). *For Infectious Cases.*—The Alton and Fareham Authorities send their own ambulances for infections cases.

(*b*). *For Non-Infectious Cases and Accident Cases.*—There is an ambulance available for the District at Fareham, and another at Bishop's Waltham. Portsmouth, Winchester and Southampton Hospitals have ambulances available for the District.

The Local Authority has made arrangements with a number of organisations in the District for ambulance services in cases of accident or other sudden or urgent disability.

Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) (*i*) *Water.*—The Parishes of Bishop's Waltham, Curdridge, Denmead, Hambledon, Shedfield, Swanmore, and Wickham are supplied from the mains of the Gosport Waterworks Company, the Portsmouth Water Company and the Southampton County Borough respectively.

The District Council have commenced a scheme for the supply of water to West Meon, which should be completed during the coming year.

Negotiations are in hand for extending the mains in the Parish of Denmead.

The remaining parts of the District, not within the Statutory areas of the above Water Companies, are supplied by wells, river water and underground rain water tanks.

I have analysed eighteen samples of water and three were found to be polluted and action taken.

(*ii*) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—There are no schemes or disposal works in the District, with the sole exception of Knowle Mental Hospital, a County Institution having its own installation.

(2) *Rivers and Streams.*—The River Hamble is polluted by foul matter from Bishop's Waltham. The water is not used for domestic purposes.

(3) (*i*) *Closet Accommodation* :

Number of Privies	1421
,, ,, Pail Closets	2198
,, ,, Fresh Water Closets	1501
,, ,, Waste Water Closets	None
,, ,, Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens). None provided, refuse used on Ground.	
,, ,, Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	1190

(*ii*) *Public Cleansing.*—In the Parishes of Bishop's Waltham, Shedfield and Wickham, scavenging is undertaken by the Council, by direct labour and mechanical appliances.

Several villages have made arrangements privately for the periodical collection of house refuse only, local tradesmen carry out the work and are paid by subscription among the residents.

The remaining villages have no arrangements.

(*iii*). SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary of Work done in Inspector's Department during Year :

	No. of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances Abated after Notice by		Notices in Hand
	Inspections Made.	Defects Found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector.	Authority.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools–							
Structural Defects	41	72	40	1	35	1	5
Overcrowding	35	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lodging Houses	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cowsheds, Milkshops and Dairies	346	35	35	–	24	–	11
Bakehouses	73	2	2	–	2	–	–
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	221	13	12	1	10	1	2
Factories and Workshops (excluding Bakehouses)	45	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ashpits, Privies, Cesspools, etc.	57	37	30	–	36	–	1
House Drainage	93	49	49	–	42	–	7
Water Supply	30	12	12	–	10	–	2
Animals improperly kept	2	2	2	–	2	–	–
Other Nuisances	16	9	9	–	5	–	4
Places where Food is prepared (excluding Slaughterhouses Bakehouses and Dairies)	35	–	–	–	–	–	–
Places of Public Entertainment (Cinemas, Public Halls, etc.)	12	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	1006	231	191	2	166	2	32

Complaints received	69
Seizure of Unwholesome Food	6
Water taken for Analysis	18
Condemned as unfit	3
Homes visited in connection with Infectious Disease	72
Homes disinfected after Infectious Disease	75
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	None

Smoke Abatement.—No action taken or needed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Five houses were notified to be infested with bed bugs and were disinfested by the Owners.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.—No action taken or needed.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.—None.

Schools.—The sanitary condition of the Schools in the District is fair, the water supply is a little difficult in villages where the Schools are supplied by wells, especially in the summer months.

During epidemics of Infectious Disease they are closed when necessary, scholars excluded from school and schools disinfected if necessary.

Rag Flocks Acts, 1911 and 1928.—There are no premises on which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Section D. HOUSING.

(*a*). *Statistics.*

1. *Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the Year* :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	130
(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	763
(2) (*a*) Dwelling Houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	129
(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	759
(3). Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	25
(4). Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	103

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year, without Service of Formal Notice* :—

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 39

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year* :—

(*A.*) *Proceedings under Sections* 9, 10 *and* 16 *of the Housing Housing Act*, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 5

(2). Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 7

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..... None

(*B.*) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts* :—

(1). Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2). Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 1

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..... None

(*C.*) *Proceedings under Sections* 11 *and* 13 *of the Housing Act*, 1936 :—

(1). Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .... None

(2). Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

(*D.*). *Proceedings under Section* 12 *of the Housing Act*, 1936 :—

(1). Number of Separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... None

(2). Number of Separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... None

4. *Housing Act*, 1936. *Overcrowding* :—

(*a*) (*i*) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year :— 10

(*ii*) Number of families dwelling therein 10

(*iii*) Number of persons dwelling therein 88

(*b*) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the Year .... None

(*c*) (*i*) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the Year 6

(*ii*) Number of persons concerned in such cases 28

(*d*). Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling Houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .... None

Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*). *Milk Supply.*—At the end of the year there were 319 Cowkeepers, etc., registered. Most of the milk produced in the District is sold wholesale. About 10 per cent. retail within the District.

There are about 3,700 Milch Cows in the District, and 346 visits were made to Cowsheds and Dairies. 71 samples of milk were taken on behalf of the County Medical Officer for examination for the presence of Tubercle.

(*b*). *Meat and Other Foods.*—Two hundred and twenty visits were made to Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards during the year, and the following meat was condemned :

Five pig carcases affected with Tuberculosis and one cow's carcase, together with offal, affected with Tuberculosis.

Butchers' Shops, Fishmongers, Fried Fish Shops and Butchers' Small Goods Manufacturers' Premises were periodically visited.

(*c*). *Adulteration, etc.*—The following samples were taken from the District during the Year :—

Butter 1, Cheese 2, Cocoa 1, Cream 1, Crystallised Fruit 1, Fish Paste 1, Fish Rissoles 1, Gin 2, Glycerine 1, Gelatine 1, Jam 1, Mincemeat 1, New Milk 57, Separated Milk 1, Pickles 1, Rum 1, Tinned Soup 1, Sausage 1, Shredded Suet 1, Tomato Ketchup 1, Treacle 1, Swiss Roll 1, Vinegar 1, Whiskey 3, all of which were found to be satisfactory, except seven samples of Milk which were found to be deficient in Fat.—No proceedings were taken.

(*d*). *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*—Carried out by the County Analyst under the County Council. Nature of work done see above.

Section F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 46 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, 42 of which were sent to Isolation Hospital.

The rest were isolated in their own houses and disinfected afterwards. No death.

There were 5 cases of Diphtheria notified, all of which were sent to Isolation Hospital. The contacts were swabbed. No death.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the District Council. A supply is kept by me and any medical man requiring Antitoxin for use in the case of poor people can get it by applying to me.

Four cases of Enteric Fever were notified, all were sent to Isolation Hospital.

One hundred and fifteen cases of Chickenpox were notified.

Six cases of Erysipelas were notified.

Two cases of Dysentery were notified at Knowle Mental Hospital.

Malaria.—No case.

There was one case of Puerperal Sepsis notified. No death.

There were two deaths from other Puerperal Diseases, who died outside the District, they were not notified in the District.

Twenty-one cases of Pneumonia were notified. There were seven deaths. There are still cases of Pneumonia that are not notified.

Influenza was fairly prevalent during the year. There were seven deaths.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis are used when necessary, the specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Winchester, who carry out the examinations, free of cost, outfits being supplied free. The report is sent direct to the Medical man sending the specimens (and if positive at the same time a copy of the Report is sent to me) and a similar outfit is returned with the Report.

Swabs of Diphtheria Contacts are taken and sent for examination ; all the cases of Scarlet Fever were sent to Isolation Hospital, except four ; all the cases of Diphtheria were sent to Isolation Hospital and the houses, etc., disinfected afterwards. The four cases of Scarlet Fever remaining in their own homes. were isolated, supplied with disinfectants and the houses, etc., disinfected afterwards.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District. The District Council have made arrangements with the Alton Council and Fareham Urban District Council to take cases into their Isolation Hospitals.

Fifty-two children were immunized against Diphtheria during the year.

No use has been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever in the District.

No Primary Vaccinations or Re-Vaccinations have been performed by me under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

The School Teachers of the several Schools notify the County Medical Officer and myself, any cases of infectious disease coming to their notice. Children and families where there are cases of infectious disease are excluded from school.

There are no facilities available in the District for the cleaning and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. Such persons are supplied with printed instructions relating to methods for cleaning and disinfection. Sometimes a family will come into the Poor Law Institution where they are dealt with.

There were 34 deaths from Cancer during the year, the cases go to the several Hospitals supplying the needs of the District, where Radium treatment is available.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Total Cases Notified	*Cases Admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Smallpox	–	–	–
Scarlet Fever	46	42	–
Diphtheria	5	5	–
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid	4	4	–
Puerperal Fever	–	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	–	–
Pneumonia	21	–	7
Other Diseases generally notifiable (Specify Disease) Chickenpox	115	–	–
Other Diseases, Notifiable Locally (Specify Disease) Erysipelas	6	–	–
Encephalitis	–	–	–
Dysentery	2	2	–
Influenza	–	–	7

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925. Persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes are sent to the Eye Hospital at Portsmouth, or the Eye Department at Southampton or Winchester Hospitals.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			*Vision un-impaired*	*Vision impaired*	*Total Blindness*	*Death*
	Treated					
Notified	*At Home*	*In Hospital*				
5	5	–	5	–	–	–

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

	New Cases.				*Deaths.*			
	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
Age Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
20	1	2	–	–	–	1	–	–
25	4	5	–	–	2	3	–	–
35	4	1	3	–	–	1	–	–
45	2	–	–	1	4	–	–	1
55	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 and upwards	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Totals	13	9	4	1	7	5	–	1

The ratio of Non-Notified Tuberculosis Deaths to total Tuberculosis Deaths is 13 to 13.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. *Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

Premises (1)	*Number of*		
	Inspections (2)	*Written Notices* (3)	*Occupiers Prosecuted* (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	–	–	–
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	43	–	–
Workplaees (Other than Outworkers' Premises).....	2	–	–
Total	45	–	–

2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces*

Particulars (1)	*Number of Defects*			*Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted* (5)
	Found (2)	*Remedied* (3)	*Referred to H.M. Inspector* (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	–	–
Want of Ventilation	–	–	–	–
Overcrowding	–	–	–	–
Want of Drainage of Floors	–	–	–	–
Other Nuisances	–	–	–	–
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	–	–	–	–
Unsuitable or Defective	–	–	–	–
Not separate for Sexes	–	–	–	–
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (S.101)	–	–	–	–
Other Offences (excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921)	–	–	–	–
Total	2	2	–	–

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

Nature of Work (1)	*Instances* (2)	*Notices served* (3)	*Prosecutions* (4)
Wearing apparel—			
Making, etc.	–	–	–
Cleaning and Washing	–	–	–
Household Linen	–	–	–
Lace, Lace curtains and Nets	–	–	–
Curtains and furniture hangings	–	–	–
Furniture and upholstery	–	–	–
Electro-plate	–	–	–
File making	–	–	–
Brass and brass articles	–	–	–
Fur pulling	–	–	–
Cables and chains	–	–	–
Anchors and grapnels	–	–	–
Cart gear	–	–	–
Locks, latches and keys	–	–	–
Umbrellas, etc.	–	–	–
Artificial flowers	–	–	–
Nets, other than wire nets	–	–	–
Tents	–	–	–
Sacks	–	–	–
Racquet and tennis balls	–	–	–
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags	–	–	–
Brush making	–	–	–
Pea picking	–	–	–
Feather sorting	–	–	–
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	–	–	–
Stuffed toys	–	–	–
Basket making	–	–	–
Chocolates and sweetmeats	–	–	–
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	–	–	–
Textile weaving	–	–	–
Lampshades	–	–	–
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
EDGAR C. PERN,
Medical Officer of Health to the Droxford Rural District Council.
May, 1938.